# Northern Region

Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

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# Pushkin Hills Provincial Nature Reserve

# Interim Management Statement

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Pushkin Hills Provincial Park.

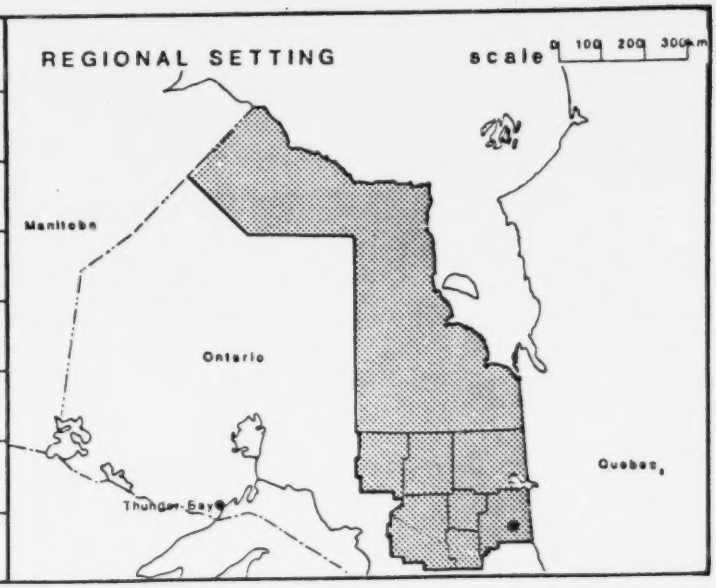
This Statement will provide direction for the management of Pushkin Hills Provincial Park until a Park Management Plan is completed. It will also set the general direction for the preparation of the more detailed management policies that the Management Plan will contain.

R.A. Riley
Regional Director
Northern Region

# BACKGROUND

| |
|---|
| **NAME:** Pushkin Hills Provincial Park |
| **PROPOSED CLASS:** Nature Reserve |
| **M.N.R. DISTRICT** Kirkland Lake |
| **M.N.R. REGION:** Northern |
| **AREA (ha.):** 5.0 ha |
| **SITE REGION:** 3E (Lake Abitibi) |
| **SITE DISTRICT:** |
| **DATE in REGULATION:** |

**REGIONAL SETTING**




**LIFE SCIENCE TARGET**

| site type/landscape unit | species/communities |
|---|---|
| N/A | N/A |

**EARTH SCIENCE TARGET**

| geological theme | feature |
|---|---|
| Archean Precambrian Abitibi Subprovince | Exposure intermediate to felsic volcanic rocks of the upper part of the calc-alkalic Blake River Group and an outstanding example of pumice lavas. |

**CULTURAL RESOURCE TARGET**

| theme | theme segment |
|---|---|
| N/A | N/A |

**RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TARGET**

| day use | car camping | wilderness back country |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**INVENTORIES**

| level type | earth science | life science | cultural | receational | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| reconnaissance completed | Yes | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| detailed completed | Yes | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| required | None | None | None | None | |

**POTENTIAL RESOURCE USE CONFLICT**

**MATERIAL APPENDED**

D.L.U.G. extract ☐ checksheet ☐ other background information sheet

# MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS

## 1. Issues

There are no relevant management issues for this park.

## 2. Resource Management Guidelines

### 2.1. Mineral Resources Management

| Analysis | Guidelines | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| The nature reserve status of the park protects it from any form of degrading land use/ activity including such forms of surface exploration/mining as open pit mining. | Geological research may be authorized by the district manager provided that such activity enhances knowledge/ understanding of the geological features, and that the results of such work are made available to M.N.R.<br><br>Mineral exploration/ extraction will not be permitted in the park. If favourable indications of significant mineralization in place can be demonstrated to the Minister's satisfaction, consideration will be given to authorizing (through Regulations) underground exploration/extraction generated from outside the Park boundaries. | That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan and following appropriate changes to regulation. |

### 2.2 Wildlife Management

| Analysis | Guidelines | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| The park falls within Trapline KL-70. | As hunting and trapping pose no threat to site values, these activities will be permitted. | That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan and following appropriate changes to regulations under The Game and Fish Act. |

### 2.3 Vegetation Management

| Analysis | Guidelines | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|
| The park contains no known significant vegetation sites. | Silviculture which enhances the park's geological features will be permitted. | That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan. |

## 3.0 Client Services Management Guidelines

3.1 Information: Basic information about Pushkin Hills Park will be produced for geologists and students. Specifically, a small leaflet providing information about access, the park's significance, references, and so forth, using pnotos, access and geological maps, and text should be adequate.

3.2 Education: Prospective visitors should be warned of the resource's vulnerability to damage from collectors; for example in any publication which is produced for the park.

3.3 Development: The McVittie-Pontiac Forest Access Road borders the east side of the park and provides relatively good access from Highway 66 (Figure 1). There is an old bush road entrance at the south end of the park which provides some parking. This could be enlarged slightly to accommodate group use.

## 4.0 Research

The Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies describes scientific research policy in nature reserves as follows (NR-IV-10).

> Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural .... history and of environmental management, will be encouraged in Nature Reserves.
>
> All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of .... geological samples .... by qualified researchers .... Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values .... in individual Reserves, and will be subject to development and management policies for Nature Reserves unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

**Geomorphology**

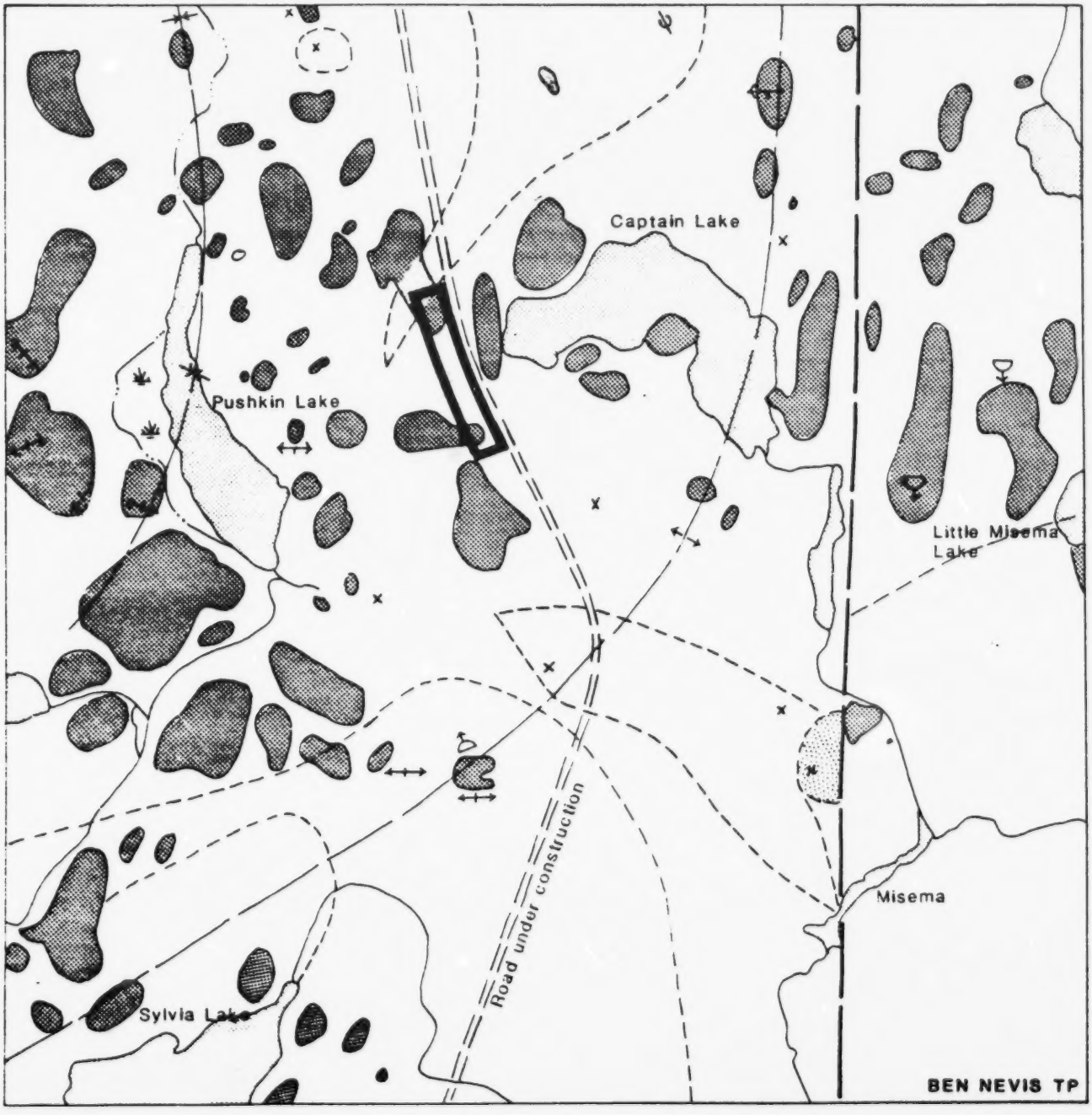
Symbol

- Glacial striae
- Small bedrock outcrop
- Area of bedrock outcrop
- Lava flow
- Geological boundary, determined
- Geological boundary, assumed
- Fault
- Swamp
- Schistosity

Precambrian

- Mafic to Intermediate Intrusive Rock, Gabbro
- Felsic Volcanics Rocks, unsubdivided
- Rhyodite and Rhyolite outcrops
- Intermediate Volcanic Rocks, unsubdivided
- Andesite and Dacite outcrops

0 200 400 600 m North



# APPENDIX 1 - NATURAL RESOURCES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Bedrock in the Pushkin Hills earth science Nature Reserve consists of Archean age metavolcanics of the Blake River Group (Jensen, 1979 - page 65, 68). The area lies within the Abitibi Belt of the Superior structural province of the Canadian Shield.

Jensen (1978, page 244), describes the site rocks as follows.

> They consist of white to light grey calc-alkalic dacite to andesite pumice flows and lava flows containing irregularly shaped pillows. The pumice flows are massive and fragmental, containing rounded, irregular shaped masses of highly pumiceous rock, densely amygdaloidal. Amygdules in the massive and pillowed flows are more than 2.5 cm in diameter.

Frey (1980) appraises the park's earth science features as being of regional or possibly provincial significance according to the following rationale.

> The site is an excellent exposure of intermediate to felsic volcanic rocks of the upper part of the calc-alkalic Blake River Group which forms the youngest part of a major volcanic cycle of the central Abitibi Subprovince of the Precambrian Shield. In addition, it is an outstanding example of pumice lavas freshly preserved in spite of their Early Precambrian age.

25. BEN NEVIS TOWNSHIP AND THACKERAY TOWNSHIP

**a. Area Description**

The recommended nature reserve in Ben Nevis Township is a provincially recognized earth science representation site for calc-alkaline rhyolite lava and agglomerate. It is 0.3 hectares in size. It is identified as 25a on the land use area maps (Maps 2 and 3).

The recommended nature reserve in Thackeray Township is a regionally signficant earth science site containing tholeiitic basalt variations and iron magnesium tholeiitic basalt. The area is 90 hectares in size. It is identified as 25b on the land use area maps (Maps 2 and 3).

**b. Land Use Intent**

The intent of the area is to protect two representative earth science features for educational purposes. Both locations are recommended for parks status.

**c. Land Use Activity for Area Number 25 — BEN NEVIS TOWNSHIP AND THACKERAY TOWNSHIP**

| Activity | Acceptable | | Recommended Guidelines |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | |
| Aggregate Extraction | | x | |
| Agriculture | | x | |
| Bait Fishing | | x | No waterbodies, therefore not applicable. |
| Commercial Fishing | | x | No waterbodies, therefore not applicable. |
| Cottaging | | x | |
| Crown Land Recreation | | x | Not applicable. |
| Forestry | | x | |
| Hunting | x | | It is recommended that hunting be permitted to continue. |
| Mining | | x | |
| Provincial Parks | x | | Recommended for park status. |
| Roads | | x | |
| Rural Residential | | x | |
| Sport Fishing | | x | No waterbodies. |
| Tourism | | x | |
| Trapping | x | | It is recommended that existing trapping activity be allowed to continue. |
| Wildlife Viewing | x | | |
| Wild Rice Harvesting | | x | |
| Urban Development | | x | |

## REFERENCES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